

USDA to Coordinate Leadership Conference

'Training Summit on Grassroots Community Building for the 21st Century' To Be Held June 18-20, 1999

U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Jill Long Thompson recently announced USDA's Office of Community Development will co-sponsor a "Training Summit on Grassroots Community Building for the 21st Century" from June 18-20, 1999 at California State University in Fresno. The conference will extend discussions begun at the Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture held in June 1998 in Washington, and will present the U.S. government's Empowerment Zone (EZ) model of community building to representatives of rural communities.

The model, an initiative of the Clinton/Gore Administration, has been used successfully to provide some of America's poorest communities with opportunities for growth and revitalization. Its mission is to create self-sustaining, long-term economic development in areas suffering from poverty and high unemployment. Successful Empowerment Zones demonstrate how distressed communities can achieve self sufficiency through strategic plans implemented by partnerships between private, public, and nonprofit entities.

The EZ framework uses a number of approaches to improve community stability and growth. Areas addressed include building economic opportunity through job creation and training, entrepreneurial initiatives, and small business expansion; creating sustainable community development through new approaches to using the resources

available to a community; making use of community-based partnerships, which stress networks among organizations and individuals with an interest in the community; and developing a strategic vision, which identifies what the community will become and lays out a roadmap for revitalization.

Conference participants will be instructed in strategies such as organizing for community development, strategic planning, setting and reaching goals, and planning sustainable development. Workshops will be held on leadership development, technical assistance, networking, and obtaining non-cash resources and non-government funding.

The conference is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture's Office of Community Development, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and California State University Fresno.

For more information about the conference, contact Joan Tyler at 202-401-2701 or jtyler@ocdx.usda.gov. (A registration form is on page 6 of this newsletter.)



La versión en español de este boletín informativo esta disponible en la siguiente dirección de.

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'Training Summit on Grassroots Community Building for the 21st Century' Agenda

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Plenary Sessions:

- Organizing for Zone Community Development
- Strategic Planning as an Organizing Tool
- Understanding Benchmarks
- Sustainable Community Development

Workshops:

- Zone Board Membership, Leadership Development and Effective and Diverse Citizen Participation
- Effective Technical Assistance
- Social Capital
- Networking
- Obtaining Non-Cash Resources, Non-Governmental Funds and Foundation Funding
- Designing an Effective Community Development Program

Women, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change

Why women and carbon?

by Annabel Hertz
WorldWIDE, Inc.

USDA's Second International Conference on Women In Agriculture included a session on how countries and communities around the world are seeking to offset their current and future carbon dioxide emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change.

While most of these emissions reductions will take place by addressing energy issues in industrialized countries, the challenge remains to reduce developing countries' future emissions without sacrificing human development needs.

Women in agriculture have a major role to play in meeting this challenge.

As a majority of natural resource managers and subsistence agricultural food producers in less industrialized countries, women are extremely well placed as both implementers and advocates of environmentally sustainable agriculture. Small-scale, site-stable, organic agroforestry systems can provide a way for women and their communities to conserve and sequester carbon and support native biodiversity (by replenishing indigenous species), to reduce erosion, and to generate income from non-timber forest products and year round cash crops such as black pepper, coffee, ginger, mango, and rattan. Projects that promote these crops to local and international organic markets are underway in Mexico, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

As a champion of women's environmental leadership, WorldWIDE sees women as key stakeholders in marketing the kinds of carbon-friendly investments that benefit women in agriculture. At a WorldWIDE discussion during last November's Climate Change

Convention meeting in Argentina, over fifty community leaders, government officials, NGOs, and the media explored ways of generating and publicizing projects that involve women and mitigate climate change.

"Climate change must be translated into the concerns of women's everyday lives," said Yolanda Ortiz, advisor to WorldWIDE, president of the non-governmental organization CAMBIAR, and Argentina's first Secretary of Natural Resources. Ms. Ortiz' view has guided WorldWIDE's ongoing consultations with women's networks on developing women and agriculture projects to form a Women's Carbon Fund suitable for attracting investments in climate change mitigation.

Since 1981, WorldWIDE has sought to broaden public engagement in environmental issues through outreach to women's organizations. WorldWIDE has been working for the past year to create strategic partnerships between women and institutions, and to channel more resources to women and environment investments. For more information please contact WorldWIDE at 1200 18th Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202-721-1541 Fax: 202-296-9679 Email: ww_info@worldwidenet.org

Note: The preceding article does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or of the editors of the ICWA Network News.



ICWA Proceedings Available in June

The U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to publish proceedings from the Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture in June of this year. Major plenary speeches and breakout session summaries will be included, along with information about women in agriculture around the world and contact information for the ICWA network.

For more information about the proceedings or to be placed on a list to receive them, write ICWA, c/o Leanne Powell, USDA Rural Development, Stop 0107, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0107 or send E-mail to Leanne.Powell@usda.gov or jacarter@rdmail.rural.usda.gov.

Full text of the bibliography Women in Agriculture and Rural Life: An International Bibliography [Published to coincide with the Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture, Washington, D.C., USA, June 28 - July 2, 1998] is available on the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center website: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/wia/women.htm>.

The full bibliography citation is Special Reference Brief SRB 98-02; ISSN 1052-536X; Beltsville MD: USDA National Agricultural Library, 1998, 144 pages. Chapters include "Women on the Land" and "Women as Agricultural Professionals" as well as a section covering bibliographies and non-print media items. An author index is included.

Free hard copies of the bibliography may be obtained by contacting Mary V. Gold, Alternative Farming Systems Information Center National Agricultural Library, ARS, USDA, 10301 Baltimore Ave., Room 304, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351. Phone: 301-504-6559 Fax: 301-504-6409 E-mail: mgold@nal.usda.gov

North American Agromedicine Consortium (NAAC) To Hold 12th Annual Meeting *Call for Papers Deadline August 6*

The North American Agromedicine Consortium, affiliated with the International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health, is soliciting platform and poster papers for presentation at its 12th Annual Meeting September 25-28. The meeting will be held at the Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Agromedicine Consortium provides a forum for physicians, other health care providers, veterinarians, university researchers, Extension and other educators, federal, state, and local government agency staff, agribusiness representatives and rural residents in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to exchange information related to agricultural health and safety.

Papers dealing with all aspects of occupational and environmental health and safety in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are invited. Topics may include: exposure assessment and injury/illness surveillance (chemical, zoonotic, etc.); prevention and intervention (educational, engineering and behavioral approaches); health care access and delivery; minority, women's and children's issues; susceptible populations; sociological and cultural issues; policy and economics; community health; and diagnosis and treatment. A competition for the best student platform and poster presentation will be initiated, and cash awards will be presented at the meeting.

Platform presentations will be 20 minutes in duration including 5 minutes for questions and discussion. High-quality, computer-generated overheads may be accepted only on a limited basis. Posters should be no larger than 3' X 6' (landscape format). Submit all ab-

stracts and program inquiries to W. Gregory Cope, Department of Toxicology, North Carolina State University, Box 7633, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695. Phone: 919-515-5296 Fax: 919-515-7169 E-mail: greg_cope@ncsu.edu

Abstracts must be postmarked by August 6, 1999. A preliminary program, registration materials, information on hotel accommodations, and directions to the conference site will be mailed to all Consortium members and other interested individuals by June 15, 1999. Visit the Wake AHEC web site at <http://www.wakeahec.org/> (click on Continuing Education) after June 15, 1999 for more information and on-line registration.

WIA On the Internet!

To subscribe to the Women in Agriculture e-mail list, send an e-mail message to majordomo@igc.org with the words "subscribe womenin agriculture-scope" in the message area.

Don't include the quotes. Otherwise, type the words exactly as you see them here -- in lower case with "womeninagriculture-scope" as all one word.

Leave the subject line of your e-mail message blank. You may e-mail the Women in Agriculture-Scope list service at womeninagriculture-scope@igc.org (womeninagriculture-scope@igc.org).

If you have subscription problems or questions, contact Carolyn Manjourides at cmanjourides@projectscope.org.

The Women in Agriculture home page is <http://www.wia.usda.gov>.

Calendar of Events

June 18-20, 1999

Training Summit on Grassroots Community Building for the 21st Century, Fresno, California

Co-sponsored by USDA Rural Development. Contact Joan Tyler at 202-401-2701 or jtyler@ocdx.usda.gov for details.

August 6-8, 1999

Fourth South Australian Rural Women's Gathering

Theme: "Women Working @ Winning"
Bordertown, South Australia. *For more info see page 5.*

September 25-28, 1999

North American Agromedicine Consortium 12th Annual Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina

Contact: Greg Cope. Phone: 919-515-5296 Fax: 919-515-7169 E-mail: greg_cope@ncsu.edu

October 11-14, 1999

Second China/U.S. Conference on Women's Issues, Beijing, China

Call Global Interactions, Inc. at 602-906-8886 for more information.

May 19-21, 2000

Fourth Women on Farms Gathering Theme: T.E.A.M. - "Together Everyone Achieves More."

Poatina, Tasmania, Australia. Contact: Ruth Paterson. Phone: 61-3-6336-5383 Fax: 61-3-6336-5372 E-mail: Ruth.Paterson@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

If you have any events to add to the calendar, please contact Leanne Powell (leanne.powell@usda.gov) at 202-720-4581 or Jean Carter (jacarter@rdmail.rural.usda.gov) at 202-205-0056.



Excerpt from Gender Differences in Farm Management, *Review of Agricultural Economics*

By Kimberly A. Zeuli and Robert P. King

Women farmers comprise a significant, increasing portion of the U.S. farm operator population, yet information on women farmers and the farms they manage is limited. Data from a thirteen-state survey offered a unique opportunity to compare male and female farmers who operate large commercial farms. The survey sample included 2,888 farmers; of these, 112 (4%) were women. The results of this study are contrasted with those of previous studies that compared male and female farmers but did not distinguish farmers according to the size or type of farm operated. Farm size and type seem to explain some of the differences between farms operated by male and female farmers that have been attributed to gender.

The proportion and number of independent female farmers--women who are the individual owner, sole operator, or senior partner of a farm--have been steadily increasing in the United States since 1978. In 1992, 145,156 farmers (a total of 7.5% of all farmers) were women, up from 128,170 (5.2% of the farming population) in 1978¹. Because the traditional farm operator pool made up of males raised on the farm may not be large enough to replace the loss of current operators, opportunities for female farmers will likely increase in the future². Also, 40% of all private agricultural land in the United States is currently owned solely by women³. These facts point to an increasing role of women in both the production of food and the ownership of farmland, yet little is known about how women manage farms.

It is noteworthy that some previously held beliefs about farms managed by women were not supported for this large sample of commercial farms. For example, the belief that

women operate smaller farms than men was contradicted by the result that women operated farms with significantly more acres than those managed by men in this study.

The fact that no significant differences in the age of operators were found contradicts the belief that female farmers are older than male farmers. The fact that more of the farms operated by women nationally are in smaller sales classes than those operated by men may explain the contrary findings of previous studies. This study did, however, still find significant differences in education level, type of farm operated, total acreage farmed, land tenure position, farm income, net farm profit, family income, off-farm income, and debt level.

Of importance are the mixed results regarding differences in financial performance and position between farms operated by men and women. Farms operated by women have lower levels of farm income and profit but higher levels of off-farm income and lower amounts of farm debt than farms operated by men. Debt-to-asset and return-on-equity ratios are not statistically different between the two groups of farms, although a higher proportion of farms run by men are in an overall favorable financial position. It is difficult to conclude, therefore, that farms operated by men are clearly financially superior to farms operated by women.

The underlying causes for these important farm and operator differences are complex and difficult to untangle, but gaining a better understanding of them is an important first step in the process of designing educational programs and policies to help ensure equal opportunities into and success in farming. Differences in management strategies used by male and female farmers are the most likely candidates for differences in financial success.

Future research should continue to differentiate farms by size and primary enterprise, because farm size and type seem to explain some of the differences between farms operated by male and female farmers that have been attributed to gender. More attention should also be given to farms in which men and women (e.g. husbands and wives) play equal roles in decision making. More in-depth analysis of the reasons underlying gender differences in farm management could shed more light on significant agricultural trends in the United States.

Kimberly A. Zeuli is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics of the University of Kentucky. Robert P. King is E. Fred Koller Professor of Management Systems, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota.

To order a copy of Gender Differences in Farm Management, contact Kimberly A. Zeuli, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics, 309 Agricultural Engineering Building, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40546-0276. Phone: 606-257-7283 Fax: 606-257-7290 E-mail: kzeuli@ca.uky.edu

References:

¹U.S. Department of Commerce, 1992 *Census of Agriculture*, volume 1, page 23.

²Tweeten, L., and C. Zulauf. "Is Farm Operator Succession a Problem?" *Choices*, Second Quarter 1994, pp. 33-5.

³Rogers, D., and A. Vandeman. "Women Farm Landlords in the United States." *Agricultural Information Bulletin* No. 681. Washington, D.C.: USDA, 1993.

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News from Around the World

Partners Sought for Leadership Project

Crystal Smithmyer, Executive Director for the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives and fellow in W. K. Kellogg's National Leadership Program, currently is completing a Women in Agriculture leadership project which will study ways in which women can gain positions in agricultural leadership.

As part of the project, Ms. Smithmyer seeks ten women leaders in agriculture, both national and international, to assist in her research. She will conduct interviews with the women and plans to conduct regional focus groups with agricultural leaders. The research will be followed up by an extensive polling of women in agriculture on a variety of topics, and the creation of a network and database of world women leaders in agriculture.

Organizations are needed to provide hosting assistance in convening focus groups. In each region a small committee will be established to identify participants and to plan an afternoon program to follow the focus group activity. Partners will be asked to provide meeting space and a luncheon.

An emphasis will be placed on nurturing the attributes and talents of individual women and on diversity. If you would like to be involved or need more information please write Ms. Crystal Smithmyer, c/o Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives, 662 Kepshire Road, Patton, PA 16668. Phone: 814-674-2362 E-mail: CSmyer@aol.com

Barbados AWIA In Action

The Barbados chapter of the Association for Women in Agriculture (AWIA) was formed in March 1999. For more information contact Ameena Austin at aaustin@sunbeach.net.

South Africa in Need of Poultry Information

Women Agricultural Association, Unlimited, of Temba, South Africa, is looking for written information on broiler, egg and chick production for its Women's Agricultural Poultry Institute for disadvantaged and disabled women. Information may be mailed to WAAU in care of John M. Makoni, P.O. Box 701, Temba, South Africa 0407. Local phone: 083-492-7416 International phone: +27-83-492-7416.

Fourth South Australian Rural Women's Gathering

The Fourth South Australian Rural Women's Gathering, themed '*Women Working @ Winning*,' will be held August 6-8 in Bordertown, South Australia. For information contact Meg Partridge, c/o Rural Affairs, SARCO, Primary Affairs and Resources SA, GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5000. E-mail: partridge.meg@pi.sa.gov.au

Farm Women Research: New Zealand, Australia, Canada

Deirdre Shaw, a doctoral student at the University of Otago in New Zealand, is researching the function of farming women's organizations in constructing farming women's identity. Ms. Shaw will be conducting field work in Otago and Waikato in New Zealand, Victoria, Australia, and Ontario, Canada in 1999. She is planning to study both established organizations and newer, network-based organizations. Any groups or individuals interested in taking part in her research may contact Ms. Shaw at the Department of Geography, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, NZ. Fax: 64-3-4799037 E-mail: dedgeshaw@yahoo.com



This newsletter was produced for the International Conference on Women in Agriculture by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development mission area. For additional copies or general information, contact Leanne Powell at (202) 720-4581 or write: ICWA, c/o Leanne Powell, USDA Rural Development, Stop 0107, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0107

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Editing & Layout by Jean Carter

Conference Registration

"Training Summit on Grassroots Community Building for the 21st Century"

Attendee Information:

Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Ms. _____ Miss _____

Last name: _____ First name: _____ Middle initial: _____

Organization name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

What language(s) do you speak? _____

Do you have special needs? _____

Choose 3 workshops you want to attend: 1. _____

(A list of workshops is on Page 1 of this Newsletter.)

2. _____

3. _____

CONFERENCE NOTES: The entire conference will be simultaneously transmitted in Spanish and English.

REGISTRATION FEE: The conference registration fee is \$50 (U.S.). Price includes conference materials and some meals. Please make checks or money orders payable to: "California State University Fresno Foundation--Training Summit" and mail to the Office of the President, Thomas Administration 103, California State University, Fresno, 5241 North Maple Avenue, Mail Stop 48, Fresno, CA 93740-8027. Fresno University contact: Rosie Guterrez. Phone: 559-278-2324.

HOTEL INFORMATION: A special room rate of \$53 (U.S.) per night has been reserved at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center Fresno. For reservations call 1-888-333-3333. The address is 2233 Ventura Street, Fresno, CA 93721. Free shuttle service will be provided between the airport and hotel.

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO: "Training Summit" USDA/OCD, 700 7th Street S.W., 7th Floor, Washington, D.C., 20024. The fax number is 202-260-6494. If you have questions please contact Joan Tyler of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 202-401-2701 or E-mail jtyler@ocdx.usda.gov.